**Honors Literature Essay Writing Tips**

**Use Present Tense & Active Voice - NO PASSIVE VOICE**

AVOID Forms of the Verb “BE” = is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been. Examples:

#1

Such **was** the trend of not only the Mughal, but also the Ottoman Empire, whose culture **focused** on and around expansion and warfare.

Evidence indicates during the early Modern Age, the Mughal and Ottoman empires focus on expansion and warfare.

#2

Babur’s original purpose for conquest **was** only to gain **“booty”** to support his military campaigns.

Babur originally uses conquest to gain booty to support his (future?) military campaigns.

#3

However, by 1556, Mughal rule **had been restored** in northern India.

However, by 1556, Mughals rule northern India again.

#4

Nevertheless, as all empires **are** born and grow, they must also eventually decline and die.

Nevertheless, as with the birth and growth of empires, they must also eventually decline and die.

#5

Each empire’s power and capacity to expand **was dependent** on new military technologies and modes of military organization.

New military technologies and modes of military organization determine each empires power and capacity to expand.

#6

The Ottoman **Empire was** slightly more concerned with the internal affairs than the Mughals, who **were always focused** on the right and well-being of their citizens.

The Ottoman rulers focus their concern slightly more on internal affairs while the Mughal rulers always focus their concern on rights and well-being of their citizens.

#7

Additionally, it **is** important to take into account the local, national and global relationships they share.

Additionally, taking into account important local, national and global relationships …… blah blah blah….

#8

The Islamic invaders **waited** at the poorly guarded passes through the Himalayas to strike and plunder once **it was clear** that the Mughals could no longer fend them off.

Clear that the Mughals could not defend themselves, Islamic invaders, waiting at the poorly guarded passes through the Himalayas, strike and plunder.